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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

144867

COUNTRY Austria

DATE: 25X1X

SUBJECT Activities and Personnel of
the Goerz Optical Firm
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INFO [REDACTED]

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SUPPLEMENT

1. The Soviet-controlled Optische Anstalt C. P. Goerz, GmbH, employs about 400 workers and 100 white-collar employees at its plant at Sonnleithnergasse 5, Vienna X.

Production for Civilian Needs

2. Until recently, Goerz concentrated on the production of eyeglass lenses, approximately 130,000 of which are now stored in the factory. The sale of lenses to Austrians is usually prohibited and it is generally assumed that they are destined for export. The Soviet management claims that the lenses are designed for the Austrian market, but that they can be sold only by barter for other goods: even employees of Goerz with physicians' prescriptions are unable to purchase lenses for their own use. Goerz has been secretly instructed to make barter conditions so difficult that they cannot be fulfilled by an Austrian buyer. When Austrian opticians open barter negotiations with Goerz, they are told that they must make deliveries of brass and iron in such large quantities that they cannot afford to do business.
3. Goerz had an exhibition booth at the Vienna Fair in the autumn of 1947, but potential buyers learned, upon inquiry, that conditions of purchase were such as to be prohibitive, and no agreements were concluded.

4. In late October, Goerz sold 5,000 lenses to the optical manufacturing firm of Franz Podlinsky, Landstrasse-Hauptstrasse 21, Vienna III, and 15,000 lenses to the Austrian opticians' guild at \$ 20 each. [REDACTED] Comment: [REDACTED]

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that this is the first time since the Soviets seized Goerz that a large quantity of eyeglass lenses has been sold in Vienna. He believes that the sale was prompted by a need for Austrian currency. [REDACTED] black-marketeers have recently been bringing lenses from Bavaria to sell in Vienna at prices lower than those of Goerz.)

5. In addition to lenses, the factory produces laryngoscopes and glass-cutting machines (about 100 to date). The laryngoscope is a special type developed by Goerz and known under the trade name Relaskope; it is said to employ a binocular eyepiece and to give a three-dimensional view. The production cost of a laryngoscope is about \$ 600. These products are shipped directly

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to the USSR. The raw materials are obtained from left-over German stocks which include first-class optical material and a large supply of steel. The optical glass itself is irreplaceable, as it is not being produced at this time. In addition to stocks on hand, a good many materials are obtained on the black market by Trinkl, the purchasing agent. According to Trinkl, there seems to be a conspiracy in Austria to prevent Goerz from obtaining raw materials.

6. Goerz has produced and stored about 1,000 surveyor's levels with mounts. Some of these may be sold locally in the near future to relieve the schilling shortage at Goerz.
7. The fine optical devices, machinery, and measuring instruments which formerly belonged to Goerz were all carried off by the Soviets after the occupation of Vienna; for this reason no optical measuring instruments can be made at this time. A few weeks ago the Soviet management ordered the manufacture of 300 dioptometers (Scheitelbrechwertmesser).

Production for Military Needs

8. No optical instruments for military purposes are being manufactured at present. The Soviet management, however, is showing interest in instruments formerly produced, and several weeks ago the Soviets requested designs of infantry range finders which can be used for distances up to twenty kilometers. Production of these range finders could be undertaken at any time, since all the specialists in their manufacture are still working at Goerz.
9. The employees of Goerz were instructed to hand over to the Russians all designs of military instruments formerly produced. The employees were further instructed to state, in the event that Western Allied authorities in Vienna made inquiries, either that Goerz never possessed designs of military optical instruments or that the designs had been destroyed by bombings.

Soviet Destruction of Plans

10. In early November the management issued orders to destroy all existing construction plans for instruments, and severe punishments for disobedience were threatened. Complaints have been voiced on the destruction of the plans because without them certain instruments could not be produced in the event of a return to normal production.
11. The following is a list of the key personnel of the Goerz optical firm:

Zakharov

General Director. A Soviet lieutenant colonel who lives with his wife and family in the Tenth District of Vienna. About 60 years old, kindly; rather liked by employees, whose hearts he tries to win by passing out vodka during working hours.

Avetissov

Plant Engineer. A Soviet national. He is more interested in restoring damaged buildings than in production, unlike his predecessor, an Engr. Kan (or Kohn), who acted as a goad to increase output.

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Dr. Ettenreich

Liaison man between USIA and the management of the Goerz plant. A former Nazi who held a leading position at the Arsenal during the Hitler regime and was responsible for the construction of quadruple-barreled anti-aircraft guns. Ettenreich is charged with the purchase of electrical measuring instruments for the establishment of an electrical section and has made several buys in the course of purchasing trips in Switzerland. It is not yet known whether he manages to bring the instruments into Austria by way of Hungary or Yugoslavia or whether he has a foreign currency permit issued by the Austrian Mareinverkehrsbusro.

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Herbert Gartler

Head of the electrical section and office for the manufacture of electrical instruments. An Austrian engineer; he was a Nazi and is said to be anti-Communist, but enjoys the special confidence of the Soviet management.

Grindel

Has been sales manager since the Nazi period. He was held in custody for a month by the Russians after the fall of Vienna. Although said to be anti-Communist, he reorganized the Goerz plant for the Soviets.

Alfred Koza

Public administrator of Goerz. Not a Communist but acts circumspectly because he fears dismissal.

Rudolf Lang

Director of the plant machine shops. The Russians held Lang under arrest for a month after the occupation of Vienna in order to obtain information on the Goerz plant. He is known as anti-Soviet in outlook.

Schimpko

Accountant, has been with the firm for 35 years. He is known as an anti-Communist and has been severely attacked by the Communists.

Schumacher

Interpreter for Zakharov. Schumacher is stateless, and allegedly not a Communist. He is said to have spent a good many years in Holland. At present he lives in Vienna 10.

Joseph Stueckler

Personnel Director. He claims to be Viennese, but speaks with a foreign accent. He spent some time in the USSR receiving political training, speaks Russian, and is said to be an ardent Communist.

Joseph Trinkl

Purchasing Agent. He is 34 years old and worked for USIA before coming to Goerz. It is rumored that he left USIA rather than join the Communist Party. He has spent several years in the USSR.

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The following persons work at the plant as scientific advisers:

Klaus Brandt A German national working in the optical mathematics office.

Haas Responsible for final inspection of apparatus; a Communist.

Stefan Jukl Head of a restricted section of the Goerz plant known as the T-Schutzbteilung. This section treats glass by a secret process which prevents reflection. Jukl, said to be the only one who knows the procedure, was a Nazi and was held in custody by the Soviets for more than a month. He agreed to run the Schutzbteilung on condition that he not be forced to divulge the process employed there.

Walter Krummreich A USIA buyer assigned to the Goerz accounting section. Allegedly not a Communist.

Ignaz Pechan

Dr. Hans Reaber Former Nazi who now belongs to no party.

Ing. Heinrich Tischberger Runs the technical department and is at the same time the chief of the construction office. He is known as ambitious but cautious. He backed the Nazis without being a Party member himself, and supports the Russians in every way possible.

Anton Frachta A Communist in charge of the laborers in the workshops.

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